

# AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint  
Agricolae." . . . . VING.

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## AGRICULTURE.

### VIRGINIA HUSBANDRY.

*Observations thereon by the Editor of the Farmer, during an excursion through some counties of that State, in the summer of 1820.*

### TOBACCO.

Near to Charlottesville, in Albemarle county of Virginia on the farm of one amongst the best Planters and most intelligent and valuable citizens of that state, I witnessed the infinite pains bestowed on the management of Tobacco, and the curing and preserving the fodder of Indian corn—in comparison with the practice of my own state in the same branches of Husbandry. I fortunately prevailed on him to give me the following sketch on the subject of Tobacco; and as the time approaches when, according to the suggestions of my worthy friend, the provident Planter may advantageously think of preparing his Tobacco beds, this memoir ought not to be longer delayed, it is therefore now submitted without further introduction.—It is in my judgment one of the most valuable papers which has yet appeared in this Journal.

#### Notes on the Cultivation and Management OF TOBACCO,

*From the plant bed to the prize—according to the most approved practices in Albemarle and the adjacent counties in Virginia.*

##### 1st. OF THE CHOICE OF LAND FOR THE PLANT-BEDS AND MODE OF PREPARING IT.

A rich virgin loam with a slight mixture of sand is ascertained to be the best soil for raising tobacco plants. Such spots are indicated by the growth of alder and hazle bushes in bottoms and on the margin of small streams, and if the situation has the command of water for irrigation it is on that account to be preferred—the spot being selected, the first operation is to burn it with a strong fire. For this purpose the growth of every kind is cut off, (not grubbed up) and the whole surface raked very clean. The burning should be done before Christmas, or as soon after as the weather will permit—and if done thus early it cannot be well too heavy, even bringing the soil to a hard cake.—The wonderful fertility imparted to soil by fire, has of late years been clearly proved and developed by various experiments in this and other countries, but judging from long established practice, we suppose it is a fact that has been long known to tobacco planters—that this fertility is imparted by the fire, and no ways dependent upon the ashes left by the process is clearly proved from the fact, that the same results will ensue if the ashes are swept off entirely clean. Or take another piece of ground of equal quality, cover it with as much or more ashes, and prepare it in every respect similar

except burning, and plants cannot be raised in it. Hence the necessity and propriety of regular and uniform burning, the want of which is always manifested by a diminutive yellow and sickly growth of plants in those spots not sufficiently acted on by the fire.

After the ground becomes cool from burning the whole surface should be swept with a coarse twig broom to take out the coals.—In this operation some of the ashes will be removed but that is of no consequence—it should then be broken up about two inches deep with grubbing hoes, in which operation and in repeated chopings afterwards with hilling hoes, all roots will be cut and finally got out with a fine iron tooth rake which will leave the ground in proper order to receive the seed.

The most approved time for sowing is about the first of February, the beds previously prepared being suffered to lie and mellow by the frost and snows to that time. But it will do very well to burn and sow after that time, as late as the first of March, taking care not to have the heat so great.—The quantity of seed is as much as can be taken up in a common table spoon\* for 100 square yards, and that in proportion. This quantity of seed should be mixed with about one gallon of clean ashes, and half that quantity of plaister of paris, and the whole well incorporated, and then strewed uniformly over the bed at two operations, crossing at right angles to ensure regularity. Cabbage seed for early planting, Tomatoe Celery, and Lettuce seed may be sowed in small quantities with the Tobacco seed, without material injury to the growth of the plants. After sowing the seed the ground is immediately trodden over closely with the feet, and covered thick with naked brush. If the frost is severe from this time it is common to take off the brush some time in the month of March, before the plants appear, and tread the bed again, and at the same time give the ground a slight dressing of manure. The dung of fowls of all sorts, is sought after for this purpose, which being beaten, is sifted over the bed through a coarse basket or riddle. The brush is then restored, and not finally removed until the leaves of the plants are half an inch in diameter; when the dressing of manure is again applied, taking care to wait the approach of rain for that purpose. Any grass or weeds that may have sprung up in the mean time are carefully picked out.—In dry seasons, if the situation admits of it, the bed must be irrigated by training a small stream of water around the edge of it. If not it should

\* This quantity of plant bed is generally considered under good circumstances as sufficient to set ten thousand hills in good time. But the prudent planter taking into consideration the casualties of fly, drought, &c. will do well to make a larger allowance. We know of no certain remedy or antidote against the fly which destroy the early plants.

be watered every evening with a common watering pot, or pine bushes dipped in water and shook over the bed until sufficient moisture is obtained.

Under a careful observance of this management, the plants according as the seasons have been favorable or not, will be fit to transplant from the fifteenth of May to the tenth of June. A planter thinks himself lucky if he can get his crop pitched by the tenth of June. After that, the seasons are uncertain from the heat of the weather, and the chances of success for a crop prevarious; though it has been known to succeed when planted the middle of July.

##### *Of the preparation of the Land, and cultivation of the Crop.*

The best Tobacco is made upon new or fresh land. It is rare to make more than three successive crops upon the same ground, of which the second is the best, the 1st and 3d being about equal. But it is more common to make only two. The new land, after all the timber and brush is removed, and the surface very cleanly raked is twice closely coultured as deep as two horses or oxen can pull. After this, hands with grubbing hoes pass regularly over the whole ground, and take up all the loose roots that have been broken by the coulters which are heaped and burnt, or removed. One and sometimes two more coulturings are then given, and the same operation repeated with the grubbing hoes, which leaves the land in proper order to be hilled—this is universally done in straight rows at the distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart, giving the same distance as near as the eye will permit the other way—in fresh land, that is to say for the second and third crop, the line of the original row, and even the locality of each hill should be preserved. After passing the coulters two or three times between each row, the hills should be made in the same place, the remains of the stalk and roots of the old plant being first removed. It is supposed, from the excess of nitrous particles contained in tobacco, above any other plant, that the partial decomposition of this stubble during the winter, imparts a degree of fertility to the spot which should not be lost by the diffusion and exposure of a general ploughing. It is most advisable too, that the hilling of new and fresh land, should be done as early in the spring as possible, say three or four weeks before planting. This affords time for the hill to settle to a proper consistence and presents a more extended surface to be acted on by atmospheric influence, which perhaps is greater in the spring months than at any other season of the year.

On the bottom land of our rivers there are extensive alluvial flats, that bear successive crops of tobacco for many years, and some planters resort to highly manured spots conveniently situated upon high land. But in gene-

ral it is considered bad economy to manure land for tobacco, both because the quantity required for that crop is greater than for any other, and because the quality of the product, as well as that made on low grounds, is coarser in fibre and less marketable.—The preparation of such land however is the same as that of new ground, except that the large plough and harrow are substituted for the coulter and grubbing hoe, and the hilling may be a little longer delayed.

If the seasons have been favorable, and the plant beds duly attended to as before observed, the plants will be ready to set out from the 15th to the last of May. It is most common to wait for a rain or season as we call it, to perform this operation, in which case the hills must be previously cut off about four inches above their base; but in early planting it is quite safe to proceed without a season, provided it is done in the evening, and the hills cut off at the same time. It is universally admitted that a moderate season is better than a very wet one; and that is considered the best, in which the earth does not entirely lose its friability, but at the same time will bear to be compressed closely about the roots of the plant without danger of becoming hard or baked. Under the most favourable circumstances, however, some plants will fail or perish, and therefore the ground must be gone over after every rain until the last of June, to replant the missing hills. It is not important here to describe the mere cultivation of the crop as it respects tillage, it being only necessary as in the case of all other plants to keep the earth light and free from weeds and grass. This is generally done by two weedings, first by scraping a little earth and all the young grass from the plants and then in a short time restoring the same earth, and as much more as will make a considerable hill around each. In old land, and that free from stumps, the single horse shovel plough is used with great advantage as an auxiliary to the hoe.

When the plants attain a proper size, which observation and experience will readily point out, they are to be primed and topped. The priming is merely stripping off 4 or 5 leaves at the bottom, leaving about a hand's breadth between the first leaf and the top of the hill. Topping is simply taking out the bud with the finger and thumb nails, leaving the necessary number of leaves, which in general is not more than eight, though the first topping may be to 9 or 10 leaves to make it ripen more uniformly, and bring the crop into the house more together. For the same reason, the late plants are not topped to so many, falling from eight by degrees as the season expires, down to six and five. A little practice, and slight attention to the manner in which the leaves grow from the stalk, will soon enable a person to perform this operation with great dexterity and dispatch, without counting the leaves. All that is requisite after this until the plant is fit to cut is to keep it from being eaten by the worms, and to pull off the suckers that grow out at the junction of the leaves to the stalk. These suckers put forth only twice at the leaves, but after that indefinitely and continually from the root, and

it is thought injudicious ever to let them get more than a week old, for besides absorbing the nutriment necessary to push forward, and increase the size and thickness of the leaf, the breaking them off when of a large size makes so great a wound as greatly to injure the after growth of the plant. In general about three months is requisite to perfect the growth of tobacco, from planting to cutting.

Of the diseases, and casualties to which it is subject; and its tendency to exhaust land.—Tobacco is subject to some diseases, and liable to be injured by more casualties and accidents than any other crop. That growing upon new or fresh high land is seldom injured by any other disease than the *Spot* or *Firing*, which is the effect of very moist succeeded by very hot weather. For this we know of no remedy or antidote. Tobacco growing upon old land, particularly upon low flats, besides being more subject to *Spot*, is liable to a disease we call the *Hollow Stalk*, which is an entire decay and rotteness of the inside or pith, terminating gradually in the decay, and final dropping off of the leaves. This disease is sometimes produced by the wounds caused by pulling off overgrown suckers, thereby admitting too great an absorption of water into the stalk through the wound.—In land not completely drained, the plants are sometimes apt to take a diminutive growth, sending forth numerous long, narrow leaves, very thickly set on the stalk. This is called *Walloon tobacco*, and is good for nothing. As there is no cure for these diseases when they exist, we can only attend to their prevention. This will at once be pointed out by a knowledge of the cause, which is too much wet, and indicates the necessity of complete and thorough draining before the crop is planted. It may not be amiss here to mention that, tobacco is more injured than any other crop by ploughing or hoeing the ground when it is too wet, and to express a general caution on that head.

The accidents, by which tobacco is often injured and destroyed, are high winds, heavy beating rains, hail storms and two kinds of worm, the ground or cut worm, and the large green horn worm. High winds, besides breaking off the leaves and thereby occasioning a great loss, are apt to turn them over. The plant unlike most others, possesses no power to restore the leaves to their proper position, which must shortly and carefully be done by hand, otherwise the part inverted will gradually perish and moulder away. Those who have studied the anatomy of plants can tell us the cause of this, as well as, why nature has denied to tobacco the faculty of restoring its leaves to their proper position.—The ground worm, the same which is sometimes so fatal to corn, is ascertained to be the Larvæ of the common black bug found in great numbers under wheat shocks, &c. This worm is seldom or never found in new land, but abounds in old or manured ground—and in some years I have seen them so numerous, as to have from 40 to 50 taken out of one hill in a morning. The alternatives are either to abandon the crop, or to go over the ground every morning, when they can be found at or near the surface, and destroy them. The miss-

ing hills to be regularly replanted.—The Horn Worm is produced from a large, clumsy, grey coloured fly commonly seen late in the evening sucking the flowers of the *Stramonium* or *thorn apple*, commonly called here the *James-town weed*. The flies deposit their eggs in the night on the tobacco, and all other narcotic plants indiscriminately, as Irish potatoes, Tomatoe, &c. In 24 or 36 hours the eggs hatch a small worm which immediately begins to feed on the leaf and grows rapidly. Great care should be taken to destroy them while young. Turkeys and Guinea fowls are great auxiliaries in this business, but the evil might be greatly lessened if the flies were destroyed, which can easily be done in the night by a person walking over the ground with a torch and a light paddle.—They will approach the light and can easily be killed. In this way I have known a hundred killed in one field in the course of an hour.

Tobacco has been reproached as the cause of the general exhausted condition of our lands, of the slow paced improvement in the Virginia system of agriculture; in short as the bane of all good husbandry. This stigma is, I am persuaded, in a great measure unmerited. It is true, that like Indian corn, from the frequent and high degree of tillage it requires throughout the summer, it exposes the ground to be washed by hard rains, and evaporated by the hot sun; but the plant in itself is less an exhauster than corn or wheat. A proof of this is to be found in the superior growth and perfection to which any crop will arrive when grown after tobacco, than after any thing else, not excepting clover that has been ploughed in. Perhaps this may be accounted for from the facts. 1st. That the roots and stubble of tobacco left on the ground are more in quantity, and contain more of the essential qualities of manure than those of any other plant. 2d. The plant itself while growing feeds more from the atmosphere than any other, and 3dly. It is not suffered to go to seed, the process in all vegetation which is supposed to make the greatest draft on the fertility of the earth.—Neither is the culture of tobacco incompatible with a proper rotation of crops, and an improved system of husbandry, for we find as extensive and as successful efforts at improvement made in the tobacco region, and by tobacco makers, as in any other section of our state.

#### *Of the Cutting, Curing and Housing.*

We have now arrived at the most difficult and critical stages of the whole process, every operation from this time until the plant is cured, requiring great attention and care, as well as skill and nicety of judgment in the execution. And hence a great contrariety of practice in some of the minutiae prevails, according to the superior skill and ability of different planters.

It is difficult to convey an idea of ripe tobacco by description. It can only be learnt by observation and experience. In general its maturity is indicated by the top leaves of the plant turning down and often touching the ground, becoming curdled with yellow spots interspersed on their surface, looking glossy and shining, with an entire loss of fur, a manifest increase of thickness in the substance of the leaves,



which when pinched in a fold between the finger and thumb will crack or split with ease. But the most experienced planters acknowledge that they are more apt to err in cutting their tobacco too soon, than in deferring it too long. As a proof of this, take two plants growing side by side of equal size and appearance in every respect, and both apparently ripe—cut one and weigh it both green and when cured: let the other stand a week longer and when weighed like the first the difference in favour of the latter will be astonishing. If it be asked, why we do not avail ourselves of the advantage to be derived from thus deferring the operation? It may be answered, as I have before observed, that tobacco while standing is liable to be injured and destroyed by more accidents than any other plant, such as hail storms, heavy rains, high winds, the depredations of worms, the growth of suckers from the root which abstract greatly from the weight and thickness of the leaves, if suffered to grow, and which it is not always convenient to pull off. Besides this, the season of cutting tobacco is a very busy one to the planter, and too much work would accumulate on his hands by deferring it to the last moment. For these reasons it is considered most prudent to cull out the plants as soon as they will make good tobacco; in which case the loss in the aggregate amount of crop, is balanced by avoiding the risk of accidents, and being able to bestow more care and attention to what remains.

The cutters go over the ground by rows, each taking two at a time, and the plants they cut are laid in the intermediate row between them. This facilitates the picking up, as the cutting of four rows is thereby placed in one. The stalk of the plant to be cut is first split down with the knife about six inches, and after being cut off just below the bottom leaf, is inverted and laid upon the ground, to fall and become pliant for handling. The splitting of the stalk is important, both for the convenience of hanging it on sticks and accelerating the cure of the plant. To those unused to the culture and management of tobacco, it will be almost incredible to learn how soon it will *sun-burn*, as we call it, after being cut and turned over on the ground. This is effected by the hot rays of the sun, piercing and penetrating the tender parts of the leaves, and is manifested by the parts affected, turning white and soon becoming dry and crisp, and when cured, of a dark green colour, without possessing any of the strength or qualities of tobacco. In very dry, hot weather, sun-burning often takes place before a large plant falls sufficiently to be handled without breaking off the leaves; and for this reason the cutting in such weather, should always be made early in the morning, and not proceed after ten o'clock. Sometimes it is done in the evening when there is no prospect of rain, by which the packing up may be accomplished earlier the next morning, and with less risk of burning. As soon as the plants fall sufficiently to handle without breaking off the leaves, they are *hand-fulled*, as we call it; that is, they are picked up, and three or four or five plants are laid together, with their tails from the sun, and the stalks inclined and somewhat elevated against the sides of some of the hills. The pickers up,

after going through this ground, return and turn over each handful, that both sides of the plants may receive the benefit of the sun, and not be burnt; and this operation is again repeated, if by this time the tobacco is not pliant enough to be put in *shocks*. This is putting an indefinite number of handfuls together, the stalks in an erect position, forming a sort of circle of any diameter, from two to six feet or more, at convenient distances in the field; and these shocks should be immediately and effectually covered with green bushes, or something else, previously in place, for the purpose to exclude the rays of the sun.

The next operation (after the heat of the sun has declined) is to remove the tobacco to the house or scaffold, and hanging the plants on sticks  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, and about one inch square. The common pine affords the best timber for this purpose, which will rive straight and with ease. From 10 to 12 plants, according to size, may be hung on each stick, the width of two fingers to be left between each plant. The scaffolds are raised 4 or 5 feet from the ground, and the poles to receive the sticks are placed four feet apart, and are made to range east and west, so that the sticks will be north and south, to give both sides an equal benefit from the sun. The tobacco is commonly removed from the field to the house or scaffold upon the shoulders of the labourers, carefully put on and taken off to avoid bruising; but if the distance is great, carts are used, greater care being necessary to avoid bruising. This is considered so important that some judicious planters make temporary scaffolds in the field, preferring the risk of injury from a smart rain, to that of bruising by moving it far in a green state.

There are two modes of curing tobacco. One in the house altogether by fire; the other by the sun on scaffolds. The first is esteemed the best and most effectual, but it is attended with great risk. Our houses are generally four sided pens, 20 feet square, built of round poles, and about 12 feet pitch. The joists are placed four feet apart, the rafters immediately over them, having beams corresponding with the joists, three feet perpendicular from each other, so as to afford ranges or tiers for the tobacco up to the crown; and the same tiers are fixed below the joists and at the same distance by extending poles across the house between the logs of the pen. The house is covered tightly with pine boards, and if it is intended to cure by fire, the openings between the logs should be closed to prevent the escape of heat. Such a sized house will cure from 2 to 3000 weight, according to the quality of the tobacco.—If it be decided to cure by fire, the tobacco is carried immediately from the field to the house, hung on sticks as before described, and these sticks crowded as close together on the tiers as they can possibly be, so as to exclude all air from the tobacco. It remains in this situation, until the leaves of the plants become yellow or of the colour of Hickory leaves just before they fall. This will generally happen in four or five days, when the sticks must be spread and placed at their proper distances apart in the house. About six or seven inches is the proper distance, or any other that will prevent the plants on different

sticks touching each other. A moderate heat which is gradually increased to a very strong one, is then applied, by making different ranges of fires throughout the house—and that wood is preferred and sought for, which will make the greatest heat with the least blaze and smoke. The fires must be continually kept up until the curing is effected, (say from four to six days) when not only the leaves, but the whole stalk becomes dry; and changes from a green or yellow, to a light brown colour.

If it is not to be cured by fire, the tobacco is brought to the scaffold and hung, and the sticks are crowded in the same way on the scaffold, until the same yellow colour is imparted to the leaves, and some planters are so particular as to cover their scaffolds with green bushes during this crowded state, to prevent sun-burning—when the proper time arrives, which is indicated by the yellow colour of the leaves, the sticks are thinned and placed at such a distance as to admit the influence of the sun and air, and if the weather is warm and fair, in 5 or 6 days, the curing will be so far effected as to justify the removal of the tobacco into the house, when it must be properly and finally arranged, and the cure will be gradually accomplished by time and season. But if damp, hot weather supervenes, it will be necessary, both in this and in the case of tobacco already cured by fire, to make moderate fires under each whenever it comes in very high order.—In such weather and in such order, tobacco is liable to contract a mould about the stems, which can only be prevented by keeping it dry by fires. This mould injures both the quality and appearance greatly, and cannot be easily rubbed off. Great attention is therefore necessary to prevent it by these occasional firings until regular cool weather sets in, after which there is no danger. From the vicissitudes of our climate for some years past, and other causes, it happens commonly that some portion of our tobacco is not mature, and is left until we are compelled to cut it by the approach of frost. Such plants, even if fully ripe, seldom cure of a good colour or quality for want of proper seasons. And here we may venture a general remark; which is, that tobacco cut early and fully ripe, will cure well and be of good quality under the most unfavourable circumstances, while that which comes late into the house, is difficult to cure and of inferior grade.—After the housing of tobacco is all accomplished, and cool weather begins, the house should be closed with green bushes, or fence rails set up on end close around on the outside of the house, to exclude damp air, and beating rains which generate mould, &c.

#### Of Stripping and Prizing.

Stripping is begun as soon after the plants are thoroughly cured and seasoned, as the convenience of the planter will permit. It is taken off the sticks in proper season or order, and packed in a large bulk for this purpose, and generally in higher order than is proper for prizing, which enables the strippers to handle it with less waste; and to tie it more neatly. There are two facts generally believed to exist, in relation to the order of tobacco, which are

unaccountable. One is, that tobacco in order, or in a moist state, is no heavier than when dry. The other, that if it is taken down and bulked, as it is going out of season, that is, as it is passing from a moist to a dryer state, it will return in the bulk to the highest state of order it had previously acquired—These opinions, however, seem to have been established more by prescription than recent experiment, for I can find no person that will absolutely assert the facts upon his own experience. But be it as it may, the latter fact is so generally believed as to be attended to in bulking tobacco.

In stripping, the best planters make two qualities besides stemmed. For this purpose, every plant passes through the hands of the sorters (the most experienced and judicious of the labourers) who pull off the two first, or ground leaves, without looking. Upon examination, the remainder of the plant may be found fit for the first class—perhaps two more leaves are to be taken off, or perhaps the whole is only fit for the second class. In this way the first class is obtained, the leaves previously pulled off are again sorted for the second class, and what is unfit for this is stemmed.

No definite idea of the quality of the different classes can be well conveyed by description. It can only, and soon will be acquired by observation and experience. The bundles of each consist of four or five leaves neatly wrapped around the head with another leaf. The stemmed tobacco (about two thirds of the stem only being taken out) is tied in large bundles, and when packed in the hogshead for pressing is untied and laid loosely, but in straight and uniform layers.

After stripping, some planters hang up their tobacco again upon sticks drawn smooth and somewhat to a feather-edge, and as it comes in proper order for prizing it, is taken down and bulked, and closely and effectually covered till the time of prizing arrives—The months of April and May, are thought the best time for this. Others pack their tobacco in double winrows, that is, lightly lap the tails of the bundles, placing the heads on the outside, and thus raise a bulk of three or four feet in height. It remains in this situation well weighted, but oftentimes without cover all the winter, and perhaps gets completely dry; but returns in

proper order for prizing in the warm weather of April and May. It is a matter of much doubt and dispute, which of these two modes is the best. Perhaps the latter is to be preferred, because it is the least trouble, provided the planter has plenty of house room, and can so order it as to leave the winrows entirely free from interruption. Other planters more careless, carry on the operation of stripping and prizing together, without due regard to the order of the tobacco, which may account for the excess of inferior qualities, and diversity of prices exhibited in our markets.

Prizing is the last operation, but not the least important in the care and attention it requires.—The size of our hogsheads are prescribed by law. They must not exceed four and a half feet in height, nor 36 inches in the diameter of the heads. In these we generally attempt to press 1500 lbs. but we oftener fall below than go over it.—The average is perhaps not more than 1350 lbs.—Our prizes are of the cheapest and simplest construction, generally fixed by the labourers who use them, and not exceeding two or three dollars in entire cost. The stump of a tree is generally used, instead of a post in the ground, until it rots, and the hogshead is protected by a temporary shed, or a light portable roof straddled across the beam.—I subjoin a sketch of the one most commonly used. This you will observe operates by an unceasing suspended weight, capable of being increased by the addition of stones to any required extent, and which is suffered to settle gradually to the desired point, by which all danger of bruising from sudden and violent pressure is avoided. The important points in prizing, are to pack the tobacco neatly, in straight and regular layers. This is best done by putting in only one bundle at a time, pressing & squeezing it closely through the hands as it is done, to make it occupy less space, by which it will exhibit a better appearance when it is opened for inspection.—To make it descend always on a level in the hogshead, by never suffering the beam to be depressed below a horizontal position, and to cause the tobacco in prizing, not to leave the inside of the hogshead, which can only be effected by having different sets of press boards, corresponding to the different dimensions of the hogshead between the buldge and the head.

\* As you have promised an essay on the culture and management of Tobacco, it is probable that your correspondent may not be apprized of the mode of destroying that enemy of the tobacco crop, called by planters the ground worm—should he omit this, I offer you a mode practised by myself for several years with success.—Old land, and manured lots, especially where they have a considerable coat of dried vegetable matter, abound in the ground worm, which cut the tobacco plant, so soon as it is stuck in the hill, and indeed continue their depredations often until it is nearly grown—On old land the great objection to cultivation by the planter is, *he cannot get his tobacco to stand for the worm*—and they are in fact a formidable adversary, as I have seen 50 caught out of 1 hill. I plough my lots deep in the fall or winter, and stir them often in the spring, before they are billed—Before ploughing in the spring, I sow two or three bushels of Indian corn to the acre, and plough it in; then let in my whole stock of hogs, taking care not to put the hogs on when the ground is wet—and at each ploughing I repeat the seeding of corn.—The hogs in searching for the corn, extirpate the worm, and no corn is lost, as it is all got by the hogs—you only lose the labour of the seedsman—and for this get the land much better broke—I have had two lots, one treated in this way, the other planted without letting the hogs on—and in the latter, scarcely made any tobacco for the worm, while in the former, scarcely a worm could be found.

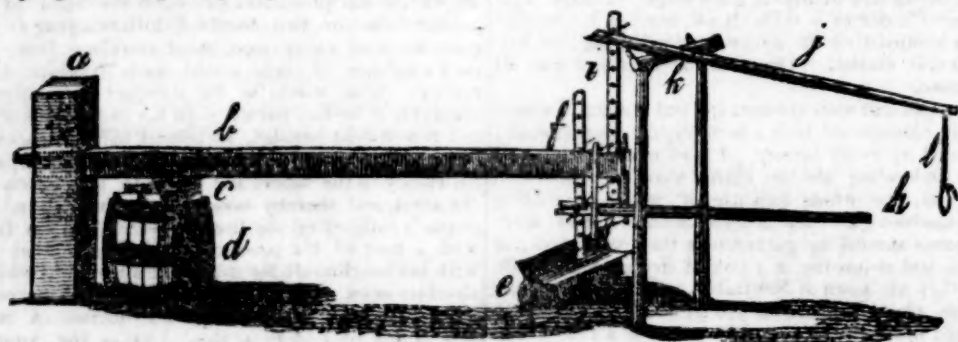
T. A.

## LOCUST POSTS AND CHESNUT RAILS, Still thought to be the best materials for FENCES.

SHARON, 20th November, 1821.

John S. Skinner, Esquire,

DEAR SIR—The remarks on fences, by Mr. William Noland, as recorded in the 33d number of the American Farmer, are deserving of particular consideration—and I was gratified with the polite notice which he had taken of a communication of mine on the same subject. I had indeed seen a small sample of the sod bank, but it was put up in a manner that did not give me the most favourable impression, and the brick fence I had never before heard of; so that Mr Noland's description of those two kinds was new and very interesting to me. On a reference to my communication, it will be found that Mr. Noland and myself perfectly agree as to the stone fence where the material is plenty and convenient; but for *general purposes* I preferred and recommended the post with 5 rails, that is, locust post and chesnut rails; my reason for preferring that kind of fence was, that it occupied less ground than any other, and the borders of the fields could be more readily kept clean, and I preferred those materials in consequence of their durability, and the ease with which they could be obtained by every farmer, as their growth will succeed on a tolerably poor soil in any part of our country; and one acre thus appropriated, is amply sufficient to keep the fences in constant repair, on a farm of 500 acres; which would be an appropriation of ground, less than would be occupied by the sod bank, or even the brick fence. It is true that where the materials are not now growing, it will be necessary to plant and look about thirty years forward for a yield; then the provision would be everlasting, and I know of nothing cheaper; for the present the farmers will adapt that kind of fencing best suited to their respective cir-



A the stump or post, e the blocking, d the hogshead, f the sword connecting the weight e to the first lever b; the second lever h is applied to the first by the frame g; by pulling the rope l, the sweep j working on the gallows k, raises the lever b, as the sweep and first lever are connected by a sword i—if the weight put in

e, is too great to be raised by the power applied to the second lever h, the design of the sword f not being fixed in the ground, would be frustrated—the weight, however, may be readily adjusted to your power by putting more stones in e, or taking some out of it,



circumstances. The sod bank and brick mentioned by Mr. Noland, I think would be beautiful, and would no doubt be the most proper in some situations, but the former I fear would not be proof against sheep, unless the ditches were filled with water, and the latter would probably require (in this climate) a bank thrown up about a foot high, or a foundation dug to guard against frosts.

Your's very respectfully,  
JAMES WORTH.

—O—  
THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ALBANY COUNTY  
Agricultural Society.

—  
ADDRESS.

(Continued from page 277, Vol. III.)

Another point of primary importance in good farming, but in which our county is defective, is the draining of wet and marshy grounds. Much of our best land is not only rendered useless by this neglect, but it often becomes the local cause of sickness and death. If our farmers would annually devote a few days after harvest to ditching their wet grounds, and divesting them of their bogs and brush, they would greatly improve the beauty and productiveness of their farms, and contribute to the health of their neighbourhood.

Let me impress upon you, gentlemen, the importance of obtaining the best breeds of stock, and of keeping them well. It costs no more to keep a sheep whose fleece will bring you six shillings or a dollar a pound, than one whose fleece is worth but three shillings per pound—no more to keep one whose carcass is worth at market from five to ten dollars, than one which will bring you only one dollar or two dollars. The Merino and Leicester breeds are among us; and the extra cost of procuring them in the first instance, is soon remunerated by the increased value of the flock. Wool is becoming a valuable staple of our country; and the domestic demand alone is likely to increase in a ratio greater than the increase of our flocks. It will not be denied, that our fine woolled sheep have increased ten fold within the last ten years; and yet the supply is so inadequate to the demand, that a merchant in New-York recently imported a cargo of wool from Liverpool, which he sold to our manufacturers at a handsome profit. This fact should do away any doubts which may exist in the minds of wool growers, as to the home demand for this article.

The advantages of a good breed of neat cattle, of horses, and of swine, over bad ones, must be equally apparent. The former generally require less food to subsist them than the latter, as they roam less, and are more docile and orderly in their habits.

But the advantages of good feeding, whether we regard the fleece, the labor, the milk, or the carcass, are much greater than would be imagined on a superficial view, particularly to milch cows. The English board of agriculture, have published an account of the expense of keeping, and of the product and profit, of a cow kept by William Cramp, of Lewes. The cow was generally fed with half a bushel of grains, malt dust and shorts, per day, besides roots and grass, and kept in a stable. The expense of her keeping averaged £23 5 3 (\$103) per annum, and amounted to \$412 in the four years; and yet the net profits of this cow are stated to have amounted to \$170 a year, or \$680 for the whole time. The cow gave from 5 to 22 quarts of milk per day, which produced from five to eighteen pounds of butter per week. The skim milk and manure were taken into the account of profits.

The Massachusetts Agricultural Repository affords a case equally remarkable. Mr. Oakes, of Danvers, purchased a cow in 1813, which had been selected out of a drove. She was then five years old. With or-

dinary keeping, he made from her milk, in that year, 180 lbs. butter. In 1814, he fed her with ten or twelve bushels of meal, and she produced him 362 lbs. butter. In 1815, he gave her from 30 to 35 bushels of meal, and her butter exceeded 400 lbs. In 1816, she was fed with a bushel of meal per week, and all her skim milk; and between the 5th April and 25th September, she produced 484 pounds, and suckled her calf five weeks of the time. The cow was exhibited at the latter date, and took the premium at Brighton fair.

With the same attention to feeding, and care in crossing and preserving our best animals, that has been bestowed upon these subjects in Great Britain, I am persuaded our cattle might, in a few years, be made to equal any in the world.

As improved implements of agriculture are coming into use, as their advantages are appreciated, I will omit what I designed to say on this subject, and invite your attention to gardens and orchards, as not only sources of convenience and comfort, but of economy and profit.

The productions of a good kitchen garden, contribute essentially to the sustenance and health of a family. They afford an agreeable variety in our diet, and are one of the best ornaments in the vicinity of a farm house. Half an acre of ground, devoted to garden fruit, and the cultivation of vegetables and vines, if well attended to, is generally more profitable, in the economy of a family, than any other two acres upon a farm. When, in travelling, we see a garden abounding with vegetables, studded with fruit trees and shrubbery, and ornamented with borders of flowers, we involuntarily ascribe to the unknown possessor, industry, good taste, hospitality and comfort. And I should be disingenuous did I not add, that the female part of the family come in for a large share of the imputed merit. The expense of cultivating such a garden is comparatively nothing. An occasional hour in the morning and evening, or on a lowly day, aided by the always ready assistance of the females, is all that is requisite.

Fruit trees, whether of the orchard or garden, are a source of substantial profit. A gentleman in this neighborhood, has sold garden fruit, from two acres of land, in one year, for more than one thousand dollars; and I know of orchards which yield the proprietors from 500 to 1000 dollars per annum. But independent of considerations of profit, the satisfaction of having, for our families and friends, a constant succession of garden fruit, is of itself ample compensation for the trouble of raising it. And how pleasant it is to a social mind, especially to the sons of New-England, to perpetuate the hospitality of their fathers, by treating a circle of neighbors, seated round a winter evening's fire, with the sparkling cider and spicy apples of his orchard. These social meetings among neighbors, which good cider and good apples tend to produce, are calculated to beget good will, to promote friendly intercourse, and to illicit and extend the sphere of useful knowledge. I have said nothing of cider as a table drink, nor of its usefulness as a substitute for ardent spirits during the hay and harvest season. These advantages you can all appreciate.

As connected with the orchard and garden, I would strongly recommend that a nursery, on a small scale, be formed by every farmer. I have made one of 2000 trees, embracing all the kinds that are cultivated among us, the whole expense of which, including labor, has not exceeded fifteen dollars. The seeds and stones should be gathered as the fruit ripens, or is used, and deposited in a box of dry sand or earth, until they are sown in November. The plants should be kept clean from weeds and grass, and the earth loosened between the rows at least once a year. The process of inoculating is simple, and may be learnt with a little practice.

Men often object to planting fruit trees and nurseries, on the plea that they may never live to enjoy the fruits of them. Such an objection is mercenary and selfish and betrays an ignorance, or disregard, of the obligations we all owe to posterity and to patriotism.

Nothing will tend more to promote knowledge and improvement in husbandry, than the establishment of agricultural libraries in towns or districts—to consist, in the outset, of at least some of the best American publications; and the collection may be subsequently enlarged according to the ability and disposition of the proprietors. Chemistry has been successfully employed for years, in aiding the operations of capital and skill, for increasing the products of agricultural labor, and improving the arts. To appropriate their joint labors to our individual profit, it is necessary we should become acquainted with their discoveries and improvements; and the sooner we attain this knowledge, the more we shall be benefited by it. I know that book knowledge, as it is sometimes called in derision, is scouted by many as unworthy their attention; by many, I fear, who do not appreciate its advantages, for the reason that they are strangers to it; and sometimes, perhaps, from a propensity inherent in human nature, to treat lightly privileges which they do not possess. The book knowledge which I would recommend, is not the wild theories of speculative men. Most of our agricultural books are written by experienced farmers, many of whom have been aided in their practice by the lights of science; and they comprise valuable experiments, made with accuracy, in the various branches of husbandry. The memoirs of the Philadelphia society, the Massachusetts Agricultural Repository, the Practical Farmer, by Gen. Armstrong, Taylor's Arrator, Cox on Fruit Trees, and some works on the treatment of live stock, together with the Plough Boy, would form a valuable collection, the cost of which would not exceed thirty dollars. The American Farmer, a very valuable periodical paper published at Baltimore, and wholly devoted to our interests, would add four dollars to the annual expense, and be a great accession in point of utility. I will add to the list, the late edition of Willich's Domestic Encyclopedia, revised by Professor Cooper, as a work which contains much that is useful and interesting in husbandry and domestic economy, and which comprizes the latest improvements in the mechanic and household arts, in agriculture and in science, with many illustrative plates. This valuable work, which is in three 8vo. volumes, would not swell the total expense to fifty dollars.

Gentlemen, I appeal to your interest, as well as your patriotism, in behalf of the manufactures of our country. For several years, the importations of foreign goods have exceeded our annual exportations, some millions of dollars. To make up the deficit, specie has been drained from the country, a vast debt has accumulated against us in Europe, and thirty millions of public stock has been transferred to foreign hands. The United States pay nearly two millions of dollars annually to Europeans, as interest on stock which they hold. It is wise to anticipate the crisis which this state of things must ultimately produce. Who among you would consider himself in a thriving way, if his purchases exceeded the sales of his produce one or two hundred dollars a year? The good sense of every man must convince him, that such a balance of trade would soon produce bankruptcy. What would be the conduct of a discreet manager, if he had parted with his money, his stock, and run in debt besides, by annual balances accumulating against him? He would at once put a part of his family to the wheel and loom, to the bench and the anvil, and thereby save his merchant's and mechanic's bills—feed the manufacturers of his family with a part of his produce—exchange another part with his neighbours for necessities which he stood in absolute need of, and take care that in future, his expenses should never exceed his income. A nation is a family on a large scale. And as the American family abounds with artisans in all the useful branches of mechanical labor, I leave you to carry out the parallel.

Upon our wives and daughters devolves no inconsiderable task in the work of economy and improvement. With them rests, almost exclusively, the business of household manufactures. And to them belongs, especially, the example of evincing their worth,

and, I may add, their patriotism, by substituting the substantial and comfortable goods of their own looms, for the flimsy fabrics of Europe and Asia.—Theirs is the task of introducing and perpetuating system and economy in the household; and of preserving, by their good temper, affability and domestic virtues, from sinks of dissipation and haunts of idleness their husbands, brothers and sons. In fine, theirs is almost the magic power of rendering

"Home, the resort

"Of peace, of love, of joy, and plenty."

With these high responsibilities upon them, added to the flattering evidences which our fairs have exhibited of their efficient co-operation in promoting the objects of this society, they merit, and will receive, our warmest gratitude and affection.

## REPORTS.

### REPORT OF THE VIEWING COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed to view the Farms and Crops offered for premium, in the county of Albany, the present year, respectfully report:

That they met in July, and after making the necessary arrangements, proceeded immediately on the duties assigned them. In the course of their tour they examined

22 Farms,	2 Fields Beans,
16 Fields Flax,	3 Nurseries.
10 do. peas,	

They have received the report from the Town Committees, from which it appears, that the products of wheat, Indian corn, oats, barley, and potatoes, have been as follows, in the several towns:

	WHEAT.		SP. WHEAT.		CORN.		OATS.		BARLEY.		POTATOES.	
	1st.	2d.	1st.	2d.	1st.	2d.	1st.	2d.	1st.	2d.	1st.	2d.
Watervliet,	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.	bu. qt.
Albany,	63	19 57	16	8	115	96	8	86	8	80	520	440
Bechtelhem,	39	12 37	16	26	133	16	90	74	22	20	509	440
Coeymans,	64	60	4	30	133	16	90	74	22	20	509	440
Westerlo,	44	9 44	2	27	119	105	24	93			600	
Rensselaerville,					125	123	24	93				
Bern,	40	38	30	36	81	8	70					
Guiderland.	36	4	33	4	124						71	22 69
											8 530	425 20

The crops throughout the county were generally very fine, and those which became the particular duty of your Committee to inspect, to wit, flax and peas, were, in their opinion, rarely if ever exceeded.

It is with pleasure your committee report, that they witnessed a general spirit of improvement through the county: their attention was particularly attracted by the many recent improvements in out-houses, fences, and a certain neatness in husbandry generally; they feel, therefore, a confidence in asserting, that the utility of this institution is most sensibly felt in this county.

The committee received a fair compensation for their services, in the polite and hospitable treatment received from the citizens generally, and embrace the present occasion to return their most grateful thanks.

In fulfilment of their duties, the committee have awarded the several premiums offered by the society.

Here follow the lists of premiums awarded by the several committees—On Farms—On Tillage—On Animals—Manufactures—and on Ploughing: and the proceedings of this respectable and flourishing Society conclude with the following resolutions:

*At a meeting of the Executive Committee, on the 11th October, 1821.*

*Resolved,* That in future no person, other than a member of the society, who has duly paid his subscription for the year previous, shall be permitted to exhibit any farm, crop, animal or manufactured article, for premium, at the annual fairs of this society, without first depositing with the examining committee, for the use of the society, two dollars for every article thus offered: and it shall be the duty of the several committees, including town committees, to demand and receive said deposit before they proceed to examine any article thus offered.

*Resolved,* That the several town committees, in examining crops offered for premium, shall first examine the entire crop offered for premium, and select a medium quality, two rods, or sixty-six feet square; that they shall then put down a stake exactly at each corner, and draw a line on each side, from stake to stake, and see that no grain is cut or picked, or vegetables dug, except what grows within said line—that the measure of ground, planted in hills or rows, shall commence from the centre of the space between said rows or hills—that in all cases the grain and vegetables shall be properly cleaned, measured, and one bushel correctly weighed, the result of which shall be plainly stated in the annual report and schedule of the town committee to the viewing committee, according to the annexed forms.

### FORM OF A CERTIFICATE.

*To be made on the 2d Tuesday in October, to the Viewing Committee.*

We, the subscribers, town committee-men of the town of ——— do hereby certify, that at least two of us have examined the crops specified in the annexed schedule; that the specimens selected were of a medium quality of the two acres offered for premium, and consisted of two rods, or sixty-six feet square, being the fortieth part of an acre; that a stake was set down at each angle of the square, and a line drawn tight, from stake to stake, round the whole, and no grain cut, or vegetables dug, growing on the outside of said line: that the crops in hills or rows were measured from the centre of the space between the rows or hills; that we saw the said two rods square cut or dug, threshed or shelled, perfectly cleaned and measured, and weighed; and that the measure and weight are correctly expressed below.

### [FORM OF THE TABLE.]

Names.	Crop.	Prod. 2 rods.	Acres	Weight per bush.
John House.	Wheat	1 4	45	60 lbs.
Cornelius Veeder,	Corn,	2 16	100	56
Peter Alley,	Potatoes,	10 00	400	52
John Alston,	Ruta Baga	12 00	480	56
Peter Squam,	Barley,	2 00	80	48
Samuel Ostram,	Oats,	2 8	90	38
Jesse Allen,	Peas,	2 4	85	54

JOSEPH ALEXANDER, Secretary.

## Agricultural Society, OF ALBEMARLE.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, (Va) Nov. 9.

At a regular meeting of the Society on Monday the 8th of October, 1821, the following officers and committees were elected to serve for one year:

James Madison, President,  
Tho's. M. Randolph, 1st Vice-President,  
Jno. H. Cocke, 2d Vice-President,  
Nimrod Bramham, Treasurer,  
Peter Minor, Secretary,  
Tho's. W. Mawry, Assistant Secretary.

### Committee of Correspondence.

James Barbour, Th. M. Randolph,  
Th. G. Watkins, and  
Wm D. Merriwether, Peter Minor.

### Committee of Accounts.

Th. Eston Randolph, Dabney Minor, and John Winn.  
The committee reported a settlement of the Treasurer's account, exhibiting a balance in his hands, due the Society of \$849 37½, exclusive of interest and of arrears due from members.

The society then *Resolved*, To continue the offers for Premiums heretofore made for the greatest productions of wheat and corn, and the reclamation of worn out land; for the best experiments made to ascertain the value of oxen as a substitute for horses, and for improved agricultural implements, for two years from the limited time prescribed respectively for each; subject to the same rules and regulations as heretofore prescribed. That is to say—

1st. A premium of Thirty Dollars for the greatest production and best quality of winter Wheat, from no less than two acres in one piece.

2d. A premium of Twenty Dollars for the next greatest production from the same number of acres. These premiums to be awarded in the regular autumnal session of 1823, and for wheat the growth of that year.

3d. A premium of Thirty Dollars for the greatest production and best quality of Indian Corn, from the same number of acres, MADE UPON HIGH LAND.

4th. A premium of Twenty Dollars for the greatest production from the same number of acres.

These premiums to be awarded in the regular spring session of 1823, and for corn the growth of the year 1822.

5th. A premium of Fifty Dollars for the best method of recovering worn out Land to a more hearty state, within the power of farmers in general, by judicious culture, and the application of common and cheap materials as manure, founded on experiment made upon at least two acres.

6th. A premium of Forty Dollars for the second best method.

These premiums to be awarded in the autumn of 1823.

The foregoing premiums are all to be paid in silver plate, with proper inscriptions, and none but members of the society can be candidates for the same. The society reserves to itself the right of withholding the premium in any case where there appears no peculiar merit.

Candidates for premiums on crops must give notice thereof by letter, (post paid) or by personal application to the secretary on or before the first of April, 1823, as it regards corn, and on or before the 1st of September, 1823, as it regards wheat—Stating in writing their names, residence, description of the crop raised, and the object offered for premium also, the nature and quality of the produce, the manner of cultivation, the quantity and kind of manure used the preceding year—the quantity and kind of manure used the year of its production, the quantity and kind of seed sown or planted, and the manner of preparing it—the time and manner of sowing or planting it, and of harvesting.

It is understood that the several kinds of grain must be raised on *old improved land*, and the products ascertained by the certificates of two respectable and disinterested witnesses.

Extracts from the minutes.

P. MINOR, Secy.



### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ALBEMARLE.

Charlottesville, Nov. 16.—The following premiums are offered free for the claim of every person, whether he is a member or not.

1st. A premium of Thirty Dollars for the best experiments made to ascertain the value of Oxen as a substitute for Horses.

2d. A premium of \$20 for the second best experiments.

It is believed that great advantages would be derived from the general use of oxen instead of horses in husbandry and other services—that by proper training they can be made to travel not only as fast with a loaded carriage if properly shod, but to plough as much land, either singly or in pairs, as the same number of Horses, particularly if geared in horse harness, with such variation as will adapt it to their particular shape—or with improved yokes strapped to their horns. It is to ascertain these particulars that the society are induced to offer the premiums, and it is expected that candidates will accompany their claims with a written essay, embracing every particular that is calculated to place the subject in a satisfactory point of view.

3d. A premium of 30 dollars for the best improved and constructed Plough for three horses.

4th. A premium of 15 dollars for the best improved and constructed Wheat Cradle.

These to be placed and remain as models in the Society's repository.

The foregoing premiums to be awarded in the autumn of 1823.

Extract from the minutes.

P. MINOR, Sec'y.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

### LUNAR INFLUENCES—On animals and vegetables, disputed.

It was not my intention to have written again to you, concerning lunar influence; and neither am I induced, by any tenacity of opinion, to do so now—but from the wish to render at any rate, a small benefit to our country, in despite of those who use their endeavours to maintain the empire of Ignorance. I am incited to make these observations, from the accidental reading of the Harper's Ferry Free Press; in which are published the effusions—for they cannot be called observations, of some one, who, with a felicity not commonly met with in news-paper writers, has signed himself "Ignoramus;" who, after some clumsy comparisons, broadly denies what I have said, without adducing a single fact, or authority against me: unless the reader can consider his whole communication the effect of lunar influence—as the moon filled on the 11th, and the piece was written on the 13th October, the very time when her greatest influence on the tides is universally admitted.

But though it may be useless to offer arguments to Ignoramus's, yet it may be done with good effect upon those who can think and reason—and should any one believe I have not sufficiently established my point in the former communication; I will support it by additional proof.

The only perceptible influence of the moon on our earth, is the raising of the tides—which phenomenon, depending on the universal principle of gravitation, is perfectly intelligible to all, but those who consult Belsham upon Natural Philosophy; or Tristram Shandy for medical opinions. But this philosophical attrac-

tion is very different from that which supposes an influence upon vegetation, a living body, or on salted meat; which remains yet to be proved by its advocates, the onus probandi resting upon them. In the mean time they may digest the following extract from Rees's Encyclopedia on the subject.

"As to the influence of the moon on the changes of our weather, and the constitution of the human body, we shall observe that the vulgar doctrine concerning it is very ancient; and has gained credit among the learned without sufficient examination, but it is now generally exploded by philosophers, as equally destitute of all foundation in physical theory; and unsupported by any plausible analogy.

The famous Dr Mead was a believer in the influence of the sun and moon on the human body; and published a book to this purpose (A. D. 1704)—*De imperio Solis ac Lunæ in corpore humano*. But this opinion has been exploded by philosophers, as equally unreasonable in itself, and contrary to fact."

The heat reflected from the moon, has hitherto been undetected by the nicest caloric measurers which philosophy has invented; but I am not unwilling to suppose it equal in degree, to her reflected light; which may be made the most of; for Mr. Leslie, celebrated for his experiments upon light and heat, affirms the illuminating power of the full moon, to be 150,000 times less than that of the sun;—but Bouguer, whose experiments are admitted by Sir Humphry Davy on this point expressly, shews it to be 300,000 less. The moon's influence, if it depends on light and heat, may therefore be estimated—that if 300,000 makes bacon shrivel, or a plant grow, one tenth of an inch; the moon's influence will effect  $\frac{1}{300,000}$  part of said tenth of an inch; which influence and no more is admitted—by

A. K.

### Editorial Correspondence.

#### SIBERIAN WHEAT—Very productive.

It is stated in volume 2, page 272 of the American Farmer, that one grain of Siberian Wheat was sown in the year 1819, and produced 1660 grains; we have recently ascertained that these grains sowed in 1820, have produced 253,000 grains, or 17 lbs.—the last number of grains was found by counting one ounce and weighing the whole quantity. The ground on which this wheat grew, is not of the best quality, and lies in Scotland neck, N. Carolina. It was much infested by birds, and shattered by careless reapers: the extent of these losses no doubt nearly equalled the quantity saved; for, at one time, we had every reason to believe that we should be able to gather half a bushel of wheat on the patch. The quality of this wheat is very good, the grain is large, the skin is white, and although it does not ripen as soon as the yellow wheat, yet it is thought to make more flour to the bushel, having less bran. It is not bearded.

One half pint of the same wheat, sowed in December, 1819, produced in the summer of 1820, half a bushel, that is 60 for one; twenty four pounds of which were sowed, and yielded

this summer, 12 bushels of winnowed wheat; that is 30 for one. Very respectfully, &c.

We are indebted for these details of the produce of a small parcel of Siberian Wheat, to a very respectable Agriculturist of North Carolina, upon whose farm it was cultivated. This wheat is no doubt an excellent and productive variety. We hope it will receive his attention, until its comparative value has been clearly ascertained. The yield of the single grain was immense, and the product of the greater quantity is a very large one. We do not recollect ever to have seen so large a yield stated from a single grain of wheat, and it is very unusual to reap at the rate of 60 or even 30 bushels to the bushel sowed. The returned made by one grain sowed singly, and having room on all sides to extend its roots and stalks, is a happy illustration of the great increase produced by the drill cultivation, now so generally advocated in Great Britain. The great disparity between the produce of a single grain of wheat, and that obtained from half a bushel, one would think presents an incontrovertible argument in favour of the open, single or drill cultivation; by this we get 1660 for 1; by the common modes, 60 or 30 from one were only obtained, using the same kind of wheat.

A more extraordinary instance than the above may be brought in support of the drill culture of small grain, and be found in the following words in Duhamell's Husbandry, Part II, chapter 1, page 117, quarto edition of 1759.—"A farmer at Acou, seeing us place our greatest hopes of success on the frequent stirring of the ground while the wheat was in it, and our allowing each plant sufficient space to extend its roots and collect the more nourishment, tried an experiment which appeared to him very proper to discover the truth of our reasoning. He carefully cultivated a grain of Barley, which grew by chance in his Vine-yard. This plant, said he, grows by itself; it can extend its roots every way; it is in a rich soil, and cannot want for food; by joining frequent culture to these advantages, this plant of Barley, according to the principles of the new husbandry, ought to yield a surprising increase. His reasoning was just, and was confirmed by the experiment; for this single grain of barley produced two hundred ears, and about thirty stalks which had no ears. Some of the stalks were four feet high, and most of them were three. I counted twenty-four grains in a middling ear. Thus one grain, planted in a good soil, and well cultivated, produced 4800 grains, and the straw of this single plant, makes of itself a sheaf, which I keep by me." Ed. Am. Farmer.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

#### CELLERY SEED.

It is a fact, known to but few, that cellery seed, in the quantity of a desert spoon-full to a gallon, boiled in soup of any kind gives to it a richness of flavor that is no other way to be had, and has this advantage over the cellery itself, that it is to be had at all seasons, and at a much less price.

T.

## FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

*Nutritive quality of the Sow Thistle—Weight of a remarkable Lincoln Wether—Sporting Anecdotes.*

GEORGE TOWN, (D. C.) Nov. 25.

Dear Sir—I have to thank you for your attention in sending me the Chocolate Corn. I have had it these twenty years, and it was always used to feed chickens. I am of opinion, that all the substitutes for tea, coffee, or chocolate, yield greatly to the thing itself.

I now set down to give you an account of a fat Lincoln wether, word for word, as I have it before me, in a passage speaking of the nutritive powers of the sow thistle in the fat wether sheep, fed to an amazing size by Mr. Trunnel, of Bicker-fen, near Boston, Lincolnshire, upon fen land. It is stated that this sheep was bred by Mr. Hutchinson, in Hail-fen, from a ram bred by Mr. Robinson, of Kirkby, near Sleaford. He never ate any corn, oil cake, &c.; but fed wholly upon grass and herbage. Being turned with many other sheep, into a field of clover, this sheep was observed to search for the sow thistle, and would eat no other food whilst any of them could be found in the parts of the field, that were hurdled off successively, a little at a time. None of the sheep that fed with him, showed any liking for the sow thistle. A small hut was erected for him in the field, to repose under in hot weather; and when the part that was hurdled off became bare of food, his attendants (being guided by his propensity for sow thistles) gathered a quantity for him, of which they gave him, at stated hours, three times a day, from 2 to 5 lbs. a meal.—Standing on his feet he measured only two feet six inches high: he was weighed once a month, and weighed alive 26 stone;\* he gained only one pound the last month—and, as it was thus concluded that he had got to the top, and was quite ripe, and might possibly lose weight the next month, he was killed on the 13th October, 1791, by Mr. Isaac Lumby, of Bicker, being then a 4 shear, or 4 year's old sheep.—The skin hung up by the nose, measured 10 feet 2 inches from the point of the nose to the tip of the tail, and was sold for 74 6s in the common course of business.

The carcass measured 5 feet from the nose to the tail; the rump or cushion 8½ inches in depth; plate or fore flank the same thickness; breast end 7 inches; one yard five inches and a half round the collar; weighed sixty-seven pounds and a quarter averdupoise weight.—The legs were estimated at 40 lbs. each; but if cut haunch of venison fashion, would have weighed 50 lbs. each; for which the proprietor Mr. Lumby, was offered 2s. per lb. so that the two legs only would have brought 10l. If you wish it, I will give you the author from whom I had it.

A gentleman of Fairfax county, Va. who I have not seen for many years, ran at Alexandria a quarter of a mile in 56 seconds; and it was evident he would have done it in fifty, for he was so sure of his race that he galloped the first 100 yards, jumping, and saying that he would win it easy; a friend who was overlooking the stop watches, told him that it

\* 14 lbs. to the stone.

he did not run he would lose his money—he then ran his best: the bet was 80 guineas.—Col. Fitzgerald, a gentleman of the revolutionary army, aid to Gen. Washington; a merchant called by way of distinction, Long Billy Hunter; and myself, were the judges. Each held a stop watch. The ground was accurately measured; they had measured it twice, 420 yards for a quarter—when I came, I told them it must be 440, so we added the 20 yards.—This was thirty years ago; the gentleman was alive last summer, and by what I heard of him I think he can run it in a minute now.

I can't find it, or I would give you an account of a mare, I think trotting 19½ miles in an hour.

Do you see in the National Intelligencer, an account of a soldier in England jumping 25 ft. 8 inches, at a jump, over a gully that wide, and 20 feet deep?

*Credat Judous Appella non Ego.*

I have a particular account; some where, of a gentleman riding 120 miles in less than 6 hours, on ten blood horses, without any apparent fatigue. He lost the skin from the inside of his knee only, and was at the tavern in company in the evening. It was in Ireland.

Your's, &amp;c. J. T.

*To destroy Slugs or other insects on Young Wheat.*

Nothing is more efficacious than quick-lime, water-slackened, and sown by hand in its hot and powdered state. Wheat on clover lays is very subject to the depredations of insects bred in the sod. Salt has been used to destroy them.

## THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1821.

✂ All subscriptions to this paper for a shorter period than twelve months, must be at the rate of twenty five cents for each number.

## PRICES CURRENT.

Flour, 1000 bbls. sold on the 27th at \$6 25, 60 days—28th, \$6 per bbl. cash—White Wheat, 130 a 133—Red do. 125 a 127—Yellow Corn, 58 a 60—White do. 38—Oats, 30 a 35—Whiskey from do. 31 cents exclusive of bbl—Hay per ton, \$12 a 14—Straw do, \$8—Live Cattle, \$5 a 6 50—Codfish, per quintal. wholesale, \$3—retail, \$3 50 a 4—Hams, 10 a 12 cents—middlings, 10 cents—Butter, 25 cents—Eggs, 15 cents—Cheese, 8 to 10 cents.

Maryland Tobacco—Fine yellow, none—good red, \$6 to 10—common, \$3 to 5, and in demand.

Virginia—No Sales.

## COMMUNICATION.

## ANECDOTES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

We have seen proposals for publishing by subscription, "*Anecdotes of the Revolutionary War in America*;" together with sketches of the characters of the men most distinguished in the Southern States, by their civil and military services. The author, from motives of delicacy, has, until lately, withheld his name from the public; and, in a private letter we have also seen, so modestly discloses himself, and the motives which influenced him in the one, and in the other course, that our curiosity with regard to the work itself, has been considerably excited. The work purports to be by "*An officer of the partisan Legion of Lee*;" and at the close of the war, he was a member of the family of that distinguished chief.

Such a work, well executed, is a desideratum in American Literature; for that incident which fires the soul, and impels to noble daring—those distinguishing features in men, marking bravery, enterprise, self-possession, wit and humor, under circumstances, however adverse; are to be gathered yet, only by wading through volumes of dull detail, alone interesting to the politician. Nay, thousands of things escape the notice of historians very valuable to be known; and many are omitted as too insignificant for dignified history. The history of human character, however, is of more benefit to man in his social state, than all the range of words ever assembled and organized for a display of the cuts and thrusts of politicians. There is not a son of the revolution, however humble his station (if he were a volunteer in that holy cause) and who distinguished himself in the most trifling degree, whose merit ought not to be in some way recorded. The soldiers of the Revolution have been, generally, poorly requited by their country. It might be some consolation to their children, to know, that, at least their merit was appreciated, if their services had not been sufficiently rewarded.

We have digressed from the object we had in view. The contemplated work, which has drawn us into this latitude of remark, is to be prepared by ALEXANDER GARDEN, Esq. a gentleman and a soldier, personally and professionally known to several of our own Revolutionary Patriots. If we are rightly informed, and we have no reason to question our source of testimony, he is a gentleman of superior education, talents and taste, and the life of the society in which he moves. We are entitled, if all this be true, to expect pleasure and improvement from his work, and trust we shall not be disappointed.

\* Subscriptions to this work are received at the office of the American Farmer, and at the Book store of Mr. EDWARD J. COALE.

## FRUIT TREES, &amp;c.

The subscribers, exclusive of their great variety of EUROPEAN TREES, SHRUBS & PLANTS, have cultivated a great number of the most valuable American varieties of APPLE, PEAR, PEACH & PLUMB TREES. Also, a variety of AMERICAN SHRUBS & PLANTS; all of which are of a proper size to forward to any part of Europe or America. They pack them in the most perfect manner, so as to be sent to any distance with safety.—The proper time to remove them will be from the 15th of October.

Orders for trees &c. left at their nursery, fronting the River, Flushing, L. I. or with

Messrs. HULL &amp; BOWNE, No. 146 Pearl-st. New-York.

Will be attended to, and the Trees, &c. carefully packed and delivered at New-York, by water, free of freight.

## BENJAMIN PRINCE &amp; CO.

✂ Catalogues may be had at the Nursery, or of Messrs. Hull & Bowne.

N. B. For sale as above, 10,000 inoculated PEACH TREES, in the most healthy state. Also, 1000 elegant SILVER FIR, or BALM OF GILEAD, a beautiful Ornamental Evergreen.

\* Orders may likewise be addressed to WILLIAM F. REDDING, at the publication office of the AMERICAN FARMER, Baltimore, who will attend PERSONALLY and PROMPTLY to the execution of the same.  
NOV. 30

## ✂ YOUNG MULES.

FOR SALE, Six Young Mules—five of them three years old; the other two years old. They are well grown, and perfectly sound—and will be sold low on application to the Editor of this paper.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN S. SKINNER.